

DM/5-55-982

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JUN 15 1955

The Honorable Carl Vinson  
Chairman  
House Armed Services Committee  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

You will recall that at the Hearing before your Committee on 13 June 1955, at which authorization of a new headquarters building for the Central Intelligence Agency was considered (Title IV of H.R. 5700), there was some discussion as to the proposed location of this new construction in view of the over-all Government dispersal policy. As I explained at that time, we had carefully considered this matter, and because our work entails such constant and immediate personal consultation with other Government agencies, particularly the White House, the National Security Council, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense, and because for security reasons a great deal of our business cannot be conducted by telephone, we had concluded that our effectiveness would be seriously reduced if we were located at a considerable distance from these agencies. Accordingly, on 16 November 1954 we requested an exception to current dispersion standards from the Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization who, on 31 December 1954, concurred in our request. I am attaching copies of this correspondence hereto.

In view of the interest expressed by you and the members of your Committee, as well as by members of the Senate Subcommittee before whom we also testified, I carefully reviewed the proposed location on 14 June with Dr. Fleming, Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization, a representative of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, and others. As a result of this review we have reaffirmed the necessity to locate our headquarters within close proximity to the District of Columbia. At the same time, these officials recognized that this exception in our behalf would not in any way be considered as a precedent for other Government agencies. The Administration supports this position.

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As one of the possible locations for our building we desire to consider the Government-owned land at the Research Station of the Bureau of Public Roads at Langley in Fairfax County, Virginia. As I testified before your Committee, however, this site would not be feasible without the extension of the George Washington Parkway from its present terminus near Spout Run to the Bureau of Public Roads property. Although this extension is definitely planned for the future, I am informed that the Department of the Interior does not have funds in its budget for Fiscal Year 1956 with which to undertake this construction, the estimated cost of which is \$8,500,000. The Bureau of the Budget, has, therefore, authorized us to submit for your consideration a revision of Title IV of H.R. 5700 which would provide authorization for this Parkway extension if the Langley site should be finally selected. If the Langley site is selected, it would not be necessary for us to use any part of the \$6,000,000 requested for the acquisition of land, since the installation would then be located on land already owned by the Government. Alternatively, if Langley is not selected, we would necessarily use funds authorized for the acquisition of land which would automatically cancel the requested authority for funds to extend the George Washington Parkway.

A copy of our proposed revision of Title IV of H.R. 5700 is attached herewith and a copy of it was handed to Mr. Smart yesterday. Mr. Smart informed us that your Committee had already reported out H.R. 5700 with the language of Title IV as originally requested. It was his opinion that we should request the Senate Armed Services Committee, which has not yet reported out its version of the Military Construction Bill, to include the revised language as Title IV of their version, rather than seek to amend H.R. 5700 on the floor of the House. We have, therefore, addressed a letter along these lines to Senator Stennis, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Real Estate and Military Construction. However, I also wanted to insure that you were fully advised as to the action we proposed to take.

Your interest and assistance in this matter are very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*151*  
Allen W. Dulles  
Director

CONCUR:

[Redacted Signature Box]

General Counsel

DD/S:LKW:laq

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[Redacted Signature Box]

Deputy Director  
(Support)

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